

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03452 061311Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 EPAE-00 CEQ-01 CIAE-00
SOE-02 COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05
NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-15 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02 DOE-11
INT-05 /111 W

-----125046 061712Z /43

R 061244Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6808

UNCLAS GENEVA 03452

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, ECE, SW

SUBJECT: ECE HIGHLIGHTS OF SAEP SIXTH SESSION, GENEVA,
FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3, 1978

1. SEPTELS (GENEVA 3334 AND 3349) REPORT ON TWO
PRINCIPAL TOPICS STEMMING FROM SIXTH SESSION OF SENIOR
ADVISERS TO ECE GOVERNMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS
(SAEP): PROPOSED HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT
AND CONTROL OF FLOW OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES THROUGH THE
ENVIRONMENT.

2. MEETING WAS CHAIRED BY NORWAY (LYKKE) WITH HUNGARY
(SZENNES) VICE-CHAIRMAN; RAPORTEURS WERE POLAND
(SUCHORZEWSKI) AND U.S. (SPIELMAN). ESSENTIAL SHAPE
OF SAEP PROGRAM UNCHANGED, WITH EMPHASIS CONTINUING ON
MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF LONG-RANGE TRANSPORT OF
AIR POLLUTANTS (IN COOPERATION WITH UNEP AND WMO),
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT, AND ENERGY-ENVIRONMENT
INTERFACE. MAJOR NEW PROJECT AREA WILL BE LOW AND NON-
WASTE TECHNOLOGY. IN-DEPTH TOPIC FOR DISCUSSION AT
SEVENTH SESSION (FEBRUARY 1979) WILL BE ENERGY AND THE
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03452 061311Z

ENVIRONMENT.

3. SAEP SUPPORTED CONTINUING INPUT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PERSPECTIVES INTO ECE OVERALL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE.
IMMEDIATE EFFECT WILL BE TO BRING OUTCOME OF BILTHOVEN
MEETING ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES (SEPTEMBER 1977)
TO ATTENTION OF ECE 33RD SESSION WITH REQUEST CONCLUSIONS

OF MEETING BE REFLECTED IN OVERALL ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE.

4. PROGRAM SUGGESTED BY WORKING PARTY ON AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS WILL GO FORWARD ESSENTIALLY AS PROPOSED. AT SUGGESTION OF SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES (INCLUDING U.S.), SECRETARIAT AGREED TO DEFER SEMINAR ON AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS IN CEMENT INDUSTRY PENDING FURTHER EXAMINATION OF ITS POSSIBLE UTILITY. SAEP ALSO APPROVED SEMINAR ON NOISE IN 1980 AND ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN 1979.

5. U.S. REP (GRANT) WAS JOINED BY OTHERS (INCLUDING ESPECIALLY CANADA) IN PRAISING SECRETARIAT FOR CRISP, SYNOPSIS PRESENTATION OF CURRENT SAEP WORK PROGRAM. LED BY U.S., THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT OVERALL PROGRAM BE MADE MORE COHESIVE AND THAT EFFECTIVE MEANS BE FOUND TO COORDINATE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES AMONG ALL ECE PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARY BODIES.

6. IN SEVERAL AREAS CLOSE LINKS EXIST BETWEEN UNEP AND ECE, REFLECTING INCREASED RELIANCE ON SAEP FOR REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEP PROGRAM ACTIVITIES. AMONG SUCH AREAS, IN ADDITION TO AIR POLLUTION, ARE SAEP COOPERATION IN UNEP MEDITERRANEAN PROGRAM, LOW AND NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY, AND 1979 REGIONAL SEMINAR ON ALTERNATIVE PATTERNS OF DEVELOPMENT AND LIFESTYLES.
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PAGE 03 GENEVA 03452 061311Z

7. COMMENT: KEY ISSUE WAS POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON ENVIRONMENT, WHICH WAS LARGELY ADDRESSED IN INFORMAL CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS. FORMAL SAEP SESSION WAS CHARACTERIZED BY RATHER UNANIMATED COVERAGE OF SAEP ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, MEETING SHOWED THAT SAEP CONTINUES TO BE EFFECTIVE ORGAN FOR EAST-WEST ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION, WITH SUPPORT OF ABLE SECRETARIAT STAFF. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLLUTION CONTROL, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, TOXINS & ANTITOXINS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA03452
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780100-1048
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803104/aaaadjxq.tel
Line Count: 102
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3110065
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECE HIGHLIGHTS OF SAEP SIXTH SESSION, GENEVA, FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3, 1978
TAGS: SENV, SW, ECE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f237f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014